## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8940
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG: JANUARY 23 STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 17029 (DTG 210017Z JAN 78) NOTAL), (B) USNATO 558 (DTG 181702Z JAN 78)(NOTAL), (C) USNATO 545 (DTG 181414Z JAN 78)(NOTAL), (D) STATE 11806 (DTG 170125Z JAN 78)(NOTAL).

SUMMARY: AT THEIR JANUARY 23 MEETING THE NPG STAFF GROUP DISCUSSED THE SPRING NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA, FUTURE NPG MEETINGS IN BELGIUM AND NORWAY, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FEBRUARY HIGH LEVEL GROUP MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. AT JANUARY 23 NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING, US REP (WOODWORTH) INTRODUCED US-SUGGESTED CHANGES (REF A) TO THE DRAFT NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA IN REF B.

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. - ALLIED REPS ACCEPTED US WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM I AND AGREED TO THE APPROACH FOR HANDLING DISCUSSION TOPICS PROPOSED IN REF B. THE STAFF GROUP AGREED ON SEVERAL EDITORIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE HEADINGS FOR AGENDA ITEM II, INCLUDING THOSE IN REF A. HOWEVER, ALLIED REPS DID NOT WISH TO INCLUDE THE PHRASE "TO MINISTERS" IN THE TITLE OF DOCUMENT (B) UNDER AGENDA ITEM II-B, WHICH IN THEIR

## VIEW WOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF BY-PASSING PERMREPS.

- 2. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF WILL CIRCULATE A REVISED DRAFT OF THE AGENDA, WHICH THE STAFF GROUP WILL REVIEW AFTER THE FEBRUARY HLG MEETING.
- 3. BELGIAN REP, FOLLOWING UP AMBASSADOR SCHUURMANS' ANNOUNCEMENT ON JANUARY 17 THAT BELGIUM WOULD HOST THE FALL 1978 NPG MINISTERIAL (REF C), SAID THAT DETAILS REMAINED TO BE DECIDED BUT CONFIRMED THAT THE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY BE HELD AT THE PALAIS D'EGMONT IN BRUSSELS.
- 4. NORWEGIAN REP (LUNDE) SAID NORWAY PLANNED TO HOST THE SPRING 1980 NPG MINISTERIAL, WHICH HE WAS ANNOUNCING NOW IN ORDER TO AID FUTURE PLANNING.
- 5. IN RESPONSE TO US REP'S QUERY (PER REF D, PARA 3),
  NONE OF THE ALLIED REPS INDICATED THAT THEIR DELEGATIONS
  AT THE FEBRUARY HLG MEETING WOULD REQUIRE INTERPRETORS.
  WE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION SEPARATELY WITH THE BELGIAN
  REPRESENTATIVE, WHO SAID THAT WHILE BELGIUM FAVORED
  INTERPRETORS FOR NATO MEETINGS "AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE,"
  HE RECOGNIZED THE POTENTIAL INCONVENIENCE
  OF ARRANGING INTERPRETATION AT THE HLG MEETING. HE SAID
  THE BELGIAN HLG REPRESENTATIVES WERE FLUENT IN ENGLISH
  AND WOULD BE CONTENT FOR THE MEETING TO BE CONDUCTED WITH-

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OUT INTERPRETATION. BENNETT

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